(e) whether Government would form policies to promote professional officers from within Doordarshan and AIR and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The regulation with regard to recruitment, remuneration and service conditions in respect of 122 categories of employees of Prasar Bharati have since been notified and the regulations in respect of remaining categories of employees are ready in draft form. However, these regulations could not be implemented, as these were not acceptable to the various Employees Associations. The matter has been referred to Group of Ministers (GoM) for taking a decision. The consideration of the matter by GoM is in final stage.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Professional officers from within Doordrashan and All India Radio are regularly promoted when their promotion is due.

Poor DTH signals of DD during rains

358. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every time it rains, the DTH signals go on the blink and 'No signal' appears on the screen;

(b) if so, whether this is a system fault, as is often told by DTH helplines;

(c) how this state of affairs is going to be rectified to make uninterrupted availability of signals during rains; and

(d) whether this problem is peculiar to DTH of DD, as in other DTH Service Providers' systems, the viewers do not face this situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) DTH signals (in Ku Band) get attenuated due to rain and this causes interruption in the service, depending upon the intensity of the rain.

(b) The abvoe interruption is not a system fault. It is a propagation characteristic of signal in Ku Band.

(c) To minimize interruptions in DTH service due to rain, uplink power control has been provided by Doordarshan at its DTH uplinking centre, which compensates the loss of signal due to rain attenuation to a certain extent.

(d) Problem of attenuation of DTH signals (Ku Band) due to rain is there in case of all DTH service providers and is not peculiar to Doordarshan.

Installation of HPT/VLPT in the country

359. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal for installation of HPT/VLPT in the coutnry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the name of the area and amount sanctioned to each HPT/VLPT;

(c) whether Government had received a representation which was forwarded by Prime Minister's office in the month of August, 2007 for installation of VLPT for Ransar Valley in District Shimla of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard and by when it will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Proposals for installation of TV transmitters (HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs) in various parts of the country have been received from time to time, from various quarters. The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission, along with rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through free to air DTH service of Doordarshan, which was launched in December 2004. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands) with the help of small sized dish receive units. New transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged to be set up.

(c) and (d) A few requests for installation of a TV transmitter in Ransar Valley have been received. However a representation forwarded by the Prime Minsiter's Office has not been received. In view of multi channel TV coverage having been provided in the entire country, new terrestrial transmitters are now not envisaged to be set up.

Rules for private FM Radio

†360. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made the rules for operating private FM Radio flexible; and

(b) whether permission for broadcasting news has been given to private FM Radio also?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Government of India took a policy in the year 1999 to expand FM Radio Network through private agencies (Phase-I). Keeping in view the large-scale default during the Phase-I and after taking into consideration the recommendations of TRAI and other relevant factors, a new policy of expansion of FM Radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase-II) was notified on 13.7.2005. The new policy provides a number of new measures to facilitate growth of FM Radio Industry like introduction of 20% FDI in FM industry, allowing networking in C & D category cities within the same region, shifting from fixed license fee model to revenue sharing model etc. Further, permission was granted on the basis of one time entry fee quoted by the bidders through sealed tender system.

(b) No, Sir.

Revision of AD policy

361. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre revised the Ad Policy and issued new rules;

(b) if so, to what exent new rules support the regional dailies published in regional languages, and

(c) the number of publications under the category of 'small newspapers"?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New DAVP Advertisment Policy, effective from 2nd October, 2007, provides enhanced percentage share in money terms to dailies published in regional languages. The percentage share of advertisements has been increased from 30% to 35%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.